

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
January 22, 2007
REGULAR SESSION

The Regular Session of the Auburn City Council was held in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 1225 Lincoln Way, Auburn, California on Monday, January 22, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Bob Snyder presiding and City Clerk Joseph G.R. Labrie recording the minutes.

CALL TO ORDER
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
ROLL CALL:

Council Members Present: Kevin Hanley, Keith Nesbitt, Bridgett Powers, Bob Snyder, J. M. Holmes

Council Members Absent: None

Staff Members Present: City Manager Robert Richardson, City Attorney Michael Colantuono, Fire Chief Mark D'Ambrogio, Public Works Director Jack Warren, Engineering Division Manager Bernie Schroeder, Administrative Manager Joanna Belanger, Transit Analyst Megan Siren, Administrative Services/Finance Director Andy Heath, Airport Manager Jerry Martin

**MAYOR'S COMMENDATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS/
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor's Commendation: Dr. Edward F. Gilligan for his service to the community.

AGENDA APPROVAL

No changes to the agenda were requested.

1. **Minutes**

By Motion approve Council Minutes of September 25, 2006.

2. **2005-06 Street Overlay Project**

By **RESOLUTION 07-12** authorize the recording of a Notice of Completion for the 2005-06 Street Overlay Project.

3. **2006-07 Street Overlay Project, Phase 1**

By **RESOLUTION 07-13** authorize the recording of a Notice of Completion for the 2006-07 Street Overlay Project, Phase 1.

4. **Surface Transportation Program – 2006-2007 Phase 1 Overlay Project Program Supplement Agreement**

Council Member Holmes asked that the item be removed. It follows the consent calendar.

5. **Amendment of City Ordinance Governing Claims against the City- First Reading**

City Attorney Michael Colantuono stated that he needed to amend the staff recommendation. Since this was a first reading, the staff recommendation was to wave the full reading and introduce the ordinance.

By **ORDINANCE** repeal Ordinance 450, entitled “An Ordinance Requiring the Filing of a Verified Claim as a Prerequisite to Any Action Against Any Employee of the City of Auburn for Damages for Intentional Wrongs:” and amend Section 33.115 of the Auburn Municipal Code regarding claims against the city.

6. **East Area Hangar Project**

By **RESOLUTION 07-15** authorize the recording of a Notice of Completion for the East Area Hangar Project.

***** End of Consent Calendar *****

By **MOTION** approved the Consent Calendar. **MOTION: Holmes/ Nesbitt/Approved 5:0**

4. **Surface Transportation Program – 2006-2007 Phase 1 Overlay Project Program Supplement Agreement**

Council Member Holmes asked for clarification of the staff report. Engineering Manager Bernie Schroeder explained that there was a typographical error. The date read “2007-2007 Phase 1” and was corrected to 2006-2007.

By **RESOLUTION 07-14** authorize the Director of Public Works to execute the Program Supplement No. N004 for Project Number STPL-5077(008) EA Number 03-928708, in the amount of \$408,750 for the 2006-2007 Phase 1 Overlay Project. **MOTION: Holmes/Powers/Approved 5:0**

7. **Public Comment**

NancyJo Riekse, 1401 High Street, Auburn, introduced herself as the new Placer County Agriculture Marketing Director.

Michael Murphy, Architect, 180 Agard, Auburn, wanted to give the Council some information regarding Auburn parking areas. He did an inventory of the area to identify public parking lot spaces, public streets, private lots, and commercial lots. He mapped out about a 200 parking space increase with a few minor projects. There would need to be minimal repaving and re-striping. He detailed for the Council how the additional parking can be achieved.

Mayor Snyder stated that the Council would take it under advisement and he would personally take it to the Old Town Business Association.

Past Council Member and Mayor, O. C. Taylor addressed the Council. He stated that he had read in the Auburn Journal that one council member was opposed to raising the wages of some firefighters. He stated that during his tenure on the Council he always felt the employees were kind of "cut under and I still do." He explained that in those days the city simply did not have the money to pay the employees what they deserved to have.

He suggested that the Council try to gain a larger tax base. He stated that he was aware that the city has quite a bit of money coming in from an oil company at the airport. However, the tax base should be more diversified. He stated it has been neglected for too many years.

Richard Herrera, Auburn resident, complained about the problem with the dirt bikes along the railroad tracks. He asked the item be placed on the next agenda so that people can come forward with their input. He stated that he has also spoken with the Police Department.

He also asked that the barrier be replaced that goes across the canal from Virginia to Stadium.

Mayor Snyder advised that it would be referred to the appropriate channels.

Council Member Hanley referred to September 25th when Bryan and Maureen Hayes came to the City Council and talked about the importance of supporting the business community in Auburn. He suggested that city send a thank you card to the businesses in appreciation of all that they do. Bryan and Maureen have donated \$250 for us to send out a thank you letter to many of the businesses in our community. He asked for a round of applause for their generous donation. Hanley suggested that

perhaps at the next council meeting a letter could be reviewed and a determination made as to the businesses to which a letter should be sent.

Council Member Holmes stated that in the past the council had been provided a staff report on various projects that were ongoing in the city. He requested staff to provide an update of where the projects stand at this time. Additionally, he reminded staff that at the last meeting he asked for the status of the stormwater ordinance and has not heard anything back as yet.

REPORTS

8. Informational Reports from Committees/Commissions & Boards

Louise Gilbert and Mike McCoy reported on the Arts Commission's projects. They handed out the commission's first publication which was a walking brochure for public art in Auburn. Gilbert reported that approximately nine artists had submitted drawings for the mural on the wall behind the Elk's Club and the commission is in the process of making a selection.

Gilbert announced that the Arts Commission will be participating with the Economic Development Commission on the Streetscape Project. Gilbert spoke about a street sculpture project, stating that the cost was prohibitive. Even a plastic cast of a selected image would be too costly. So, the commission devised a new plan.

McCoy stated that the new plan is for garden benches, each being a different and unique piece of art. The Auburn Woodcrafters Guild has volunteered to manufacture them at no cost to the city. The material costs will be minimal. Local businesses will sponsor the bench program and in return will be able to display the bench for three months. At the end of the time the benches will be auctioned off at the last Art Walk Night. The money will then be used for a future project.

9. Results of Annual Audit-Fiscal Year 2005-06

Administrative Services/Finance Director Andy Heath introduced the item. He presented the first Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the City of Auburn for Fiscal Year 2005-06. He spoke about the purpose and scope of the audit, the auditors' opinion, the organization of the report itself, selected financial highlights for 2005-06 and the management report. Council discussion followed.

Council received and filed the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

10. **City Council Committee Reports**

Council Member Holmes reported on the League of California Cities Committee Meeting in Sacramento. Some of the items on the agenda were the High-speed Rail Project and the Echo 911 System. A copy of the briefing on the 911 system has been given to the City Manager. Another topic was that of Horizontal Directional Drilling wherein damage can be done to sewer lines because of the type of drilling procedure.

Council Member Snyder reported on a conference that he and the City Manager had attended on Heritage and Cultural Tourism. He advised that Auburn is on track with many of the things being accomplished within the city. Snyder stated that he is looking forward to working with different groups in Auburn to continue the progress.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

11. **Wastewater Treatment Plan Schedule-Action Plan**

Public Works Director Jack Warren introduced the item. He introduced Dan Rich, a staff member of Eco Logic, a respected firm in the wastewater business, who assisted with the presentation. He asked that the Wastewater Treatment Plant Action Plan be approved in concept, and that the staff be directed to go forward. He explained Council action would not be binding at this time and would have no fiscal impact. Eventually, it would be brought back to the Council at which time it would impact the city's revenue.

Council discussion and questions followed.

Past Council Member and Mayor O. C. Taylor stated that mid-year 1995 the sewer assessments were raised considerably. He advised that it amounts to approximately 2,500,000 to 3,000,000 per year. Taylor stated that council at that time took to action based on: (1) the deterioration of the Lincoln Avenue sewer lines and to (2) expand and refurbish the Wastewater Treatment Plant. He said that the sewer lines were not replaced. He added that he would like it if all the monies collected, expended and held in the fund by the city for the sewer assessments be fully disclosed.

Taylor also said he would like the Wastewater Treatment Plant to stay in Auburn and be operated by the Public Works Department. The Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant would call for the creation of some type of a Joint Powers Association between all participating entities. Auburn, due to a lesser population, would have a very limited vote. The larger cities

would have the most votes. He stated that local control would benefit Auburn more than a Regional Plant.

Mayor Snyder announced that the “sewer assessment, all collections, all expenses, all revenues, are in a separate fund and not co-mingled with any other fund.” That information is available at all times.

Richard Sanborn, Auburn resident, asked that O. C. Taylor be taken seriously because he does have a lot of information. He acknowledged that sewer fees would increase, but asked that the Wastewater Treatment Plant be kept in Auburn. He stated the jobs and the money would then remain in Auburn.

Joe Labrie, Auburn resident, asked if the Wastewater Treatment Plant ever considered the use of ozone, which is highly toxic to bacteria.

Dan Rich answered that it was a good question in that ozone is used for water treatment plant disinfection. It is an evolving technology for wastewater. Unfortunately, there are no state certified ozone vendors. He stated that it is a great disinfectant, but has not matured to its capability for use as yet.

By **MOTION** approve the Wastewater Treatment Plant Action Plan in concept. **MOTION: Nesbitt/Holmes/Approved by Voice**

12. **Annual Land-Use/Housing Planning Report & Meeting**

Council Member Hanley introduced the item on behalf of himself and Council Member Nesbitt. He stated that the main purpose was to create an informed and updated discussion of the general plan, consisting of “various elements, the land use element and circulation or transportation, housing, open space, noise, safety, economic and historic.” He stated that state law now requires that the city, every April 1st, send in a report “stating the progress that is being made on implementing the general plan and what progress is being made with affordable housing and reducing the restraints there.” Therefore, an upcoming meeting with the Planning Commission will take place to get the commission’s ideas and plans for meeting the housing goals. The final outcome would be returned to the Council for adoption to be included in the April report.

Council Member Nesbitt added that it will allow the Council to adopt future goals for implementation. He felt this would allow more time for discussion prior to reporting to the state.

By **RESOLUTION 07-16** direct staff to prepare specified reports to the Planning Commission and City Council related to the implementation of the General Plan, city policies related to *Blueprint* implementation, and progress in meeting regionally-required affordable housing goals in sufficient time to allow for City Council review and adoption of state-required reports by April of each year. **MOTION: Holmes/Hanley/ Approved 5:0**

13. **Auburn Solar Power Initiative**

Council Member Hanley introduced the item on behalf of himself and Council Member Nesbitt. He stated that they had met with Public Works Director Warren and representatives of PG & E to discuss the possibility of using solar power in the city. It may save tax payers money, benefit the environment and lessen dependence on fossil fuels. He advised that it is generated from a new program, created by the California Public Utilities Commission, "The California Solar Initiative," to encourage solar power.

Council Member Nesbitt stated that anytime a clean, reliable power source can be explored it would be of benefit to the city. He said there is a point where city costs would be recouped, and action on this item will turn the city's focus to the future.

Council Member Holmes commented that anything the city can do to show leadership in this area is of benefit to the community. He further stated that he had spoken with the Placer County Air Pollution Control District officer, and suggested that staff look Placer County Air Pollution Control District grants that would help to offset some of the expenses.

Ken Brown, 200 Hillcrest Drive, Auburn, stated that he has been in the business of solar energy for about two years. He said that he has been interested in it since 1976. He advised that Auburn is an excellent location for solar power. He said that rebates would be declining over the upcoming years, but that right now, with the rebates now offered, it is an ideal time to get involved for the long term.

By **RESOLUTION 07-17** direct city staff to fully explore and report back to the City Council regarding potential solar energy options. **MOTION: Hanley/Holmes/Approved 5:0**

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Snyder, without objection, adjourned the meeting at 8:24 p.m.